

## Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

### 6. Introduction

Community facilities and services are important to the future of the city. They contribute to the health, safety and welfare of residents, improve the quality of life, and foster new housing and business development. The timing and location of new community facilities and services also influence private development. It is important that community facilities and services be adequate to meet expected demands, and at the same time be used to guide growth in an orderly and logical manner.

This element includes an inventory and assessment of public facilities and services provided by the city and other public and private organizations. Existing conditions and needs are identified for such facilities as the water and sewerage systems, public safety, solid waste, recreation and parks, schools, libraries and other cultural facilities. An inventory of hospitals and other public health facilities is also included.

#### 6.1 General Government

A ten-member board of commissioners and a mayor governs the city of Augusta. Eight of the commission members are elected from individual districts, and two are elected from a combination of four districts. The mayor is elected on a citywide basis. The term of office is four years, and no person can serve as either a commissioner or mayor for more than two consecutive terms. The mayor is the chief executive officer of the government and has the following powers and duties:

- ❑ To preside at all meetings of the commission;
- ❑ To serve as the official head of the government for the service of process and for ceremonial purposes;
- ❑ To administer oaths and take affidavits;
- ❑ To sign all written contracts on behalf of the City;
- ❑ To ensure that all laws, ordinances, and resolutions are faithfully executed.

The mayor has the right to vote to make or break a tie vote on any matter coming before the commission, but cannot veto ordinances, resolutions, or other actions of the commission.

Commission members sit on one or more of five standing committees: Finance, Administrative Services, Engineering Services, Public Services, and Public Safety/Information Technology. The appropriate committee first hears ordinances, resolutions and other matters. From the committee, an item is forwarded to the full Commission for consideration. The Commission meets twice each month, as do each of the committees. In January of each year the Commission elects a member to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. The Mayor Pro Tem chairs the Commission meeting in the absence of the Mayor, and performs other duties as assigned by the Commission. A member can serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms as Mayor Pro Tem.

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The Commission employs an Administrator to coordinate the day-to-day activities of city government. The city employs approximately 2,600 people in over fifty different departments. A number of the departments are located in the Municipal Building at 530 Greene Street, and a couple of annex buildings. Other major facilities than the city owns, and some departments operate out of include:

- ❑ Public Works & License & Inspection Departments - 1815 Marvin Griffin Road
- ❑ Recreation and Parks Department - 2027-29 Lumpkin Road
- ❑ Law Enforcement Center - 401 Walton Way
- ❑ James B. Messerly Wastewater Treatment Plant - 1820 Doug Barnard Parkway
- ❑ Richmond County Correctional Institution - 2314 Tobacco Road
- ❑ Emergency Management Agency/911 Center - 911 Fourth Street
- ❑ Fleet Management - 1568 Broad Street
- ❑ Augusta Public Transit Administration & Garage - 1535 Fenwick Street
- ❑ Augusta Public Transit Transfer Facility - 1546 Broad Street
- ❑ Augusta-Richmond County Landfill - 4330 Deans Bridge Road
- ❑ Phinizy Road Jail - 1941 Phinizy Road
- ❑ Waterworks Filter Plant - 1425 Highland Avenue

According to recent research by the Finance Department, the city leases 40,455 square feet of office space for other departments and agencies. The majority of the leased space - 30,445 square feet - is concentrated in three downtown buildings:

- ❑ The Hatcher Building, 501 Greene Street - the District Attorney, Facilities Management Department and Law Department
- ❑ New South Building, 360 Bay Street - Utilities Department, Human Relations Commission, Coroner's Office
- ❑ Augusta Riverfront Center, #1 Tenth Street - Housing and Neighborhood Development Department and Fire Department Administration

The Municipal Building and the Law Enforcement Center together also are home to several constitutional officers, judges and their staffs. These include the Clerk of Superior Court, Tax Commissioner, Marshal's Department, Sheriff's Department, the State Court Solicitor, and judges for the following court systems: Superior Court, State Court, Probate Court, and Civil and Magistrate Court.

### **6.1.1 Assessment of General Government Needs**

Following consolidation, the city hired a consultant to evaluate space needs for the government. The space study resulted in several alternatives ranging from adding on to the existing municipal building, to relocating all functions to a new site. In February 2002, the Augusta Commission voted to renovate and expand the 100,000 square-foot municipal building for use as a judicial center and courts complex. General government offices currently housed in the Municipal Building would be moved to a yet-to-be-determined site. Plans also are in the works for new facilities to house two departments: Public Works and

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Engineering and Utilities. The new facilities will be located on a site off Richmond Hill Road in south Augusta.

Concerned that the Municipal Building site was too small for the proposed judicial center, an advisory panel recommended constructing the facility on a riverfront parcel in the 500 block of Reynolds Street in June 2003. The engineering firm hired to design the center evaluated the Reynolds Street property and another potential site at May Park. In response to a request from Augusta Commissioners, the consultant also evaluated the feasibility of sites on the 900 block of Telfair Street and Regency Mall in south Augusta. On August 19, 2003 a majority of the Augusta Commission voted in favor of the Telfair Street site, subject to a favorable environmental assessment of the property. The Commission designated the Municipal Building as the backup location.

In October several commissioners asked projects designers to look more closely at the Telfair Street site. Concerned was expressed about the impact of the project on existing businesses located on the site. On October 28<sup>th</sup> project architects presented Commissioners with an evaluation of four alternative sites on and near the 900 Block of Telfair Street. Subsequently, the Commission approved locating the 300,000 square-foot judicial center on a vacant three-acre parcel of land at the corner of James Brown Blvd. and Walker Street.

### **6.2 Public Safety**

Public safety includes police protection, fire protection, emergency medical services, 911 dispatch services, and animal control services. The Richmond County Sheriff's office provides police protection. All other public safety functions are provided through line agencies of the Augusta government.

#### **6.2.1 Richmond County Sheriff's Office**

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office is an independent public agency headed by an elected sheriff. The office employs 716 people and is divided into four divisions: Administrative, Uniform (or Patrol), Criminal Investigation, and the Jail Division. The Sheriff's Office also staffs and operates a training center.

The Administrative Division includes the Sheriff, Chief Deputy and another 89 personnel assigned to various administrative, record keeping, and public relations functions. Twenty-one people work in the administrative division. Five officers and 27 clerks staff the records section. In the Civil Section there are 21 deputies assigned to serve court papers. Another 11 people provide supervisory or support functions in the Civil Section. The Public Relations section is staffed by 5 deputies and 1 lieutenant and implements the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program.

The Uniform or Patrol Division is the largest division, employing 292 people. The division is comprised of two precincts - the North and the South. A Major, assisted by a precinct Captain, commands each division. The precincts have four patrol shifts each, plus

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the various Special Operations units housed within that precinct. The uniformed patrol shifts operate on two 12-hour shifts. One lieutenant commands these shifts with the assistance of two sergeants. Patrol deputies are assigned either a permanent day or night shift. Each deputy on the shift is assigned a beat to patrol. Beat assignments are not rotated, thereby allowing a deputy to become very familiar with a specific patrol area.

Special Operations is a subdivision of the Uniform Division and is housed in both the North and South Precincts. Units within Special Operations include the Crime Suppression Team, the D.U.I Task Force, the Motorcycle/Traffic Squad, the Weed and Seed Unit, the School/Safety Patrol, and two Housing Unit Squads. The basic responsibilities of the units are as follows:

- ❑ Crime Suppression Team - A multi-function unit consisting of 8 deputies and 1 sergeant. Conducts saturation or directed patrols in high crime areas, execute search warrants and high-risk arrest warrants, and assigned to stake-outs, narcotics, and prostitution suppression efforts.
- ❑ DUI Task Force - A five-person unit whose primary function is the detection and apprehension of intoxicated drivers. The Sheriff's Office also operates a DUI van equipped with a Mobile Breathalyzer Unit.
- ❑ Motorcycle/Traffic Squad - Includes 12 motorcycle units and 1 parking violation deputy. This squad focuses on gaining compliance with all traffic laws through aggressive enforcement of the traffic code. The squad also investigates motor vehicle accidents, conducts traffic surveys, and assists with efforts to increase seatbelt usage. The parking violation deputy patrols Broad Street and adjoining streets enforcing parking regulations.
- ❑ Weed and Seed - This unit was created in January 1999 and consists of 3 deputies working under the direction of a lieutenant. Originally funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice, the program is designed to "weed" out the criminal element in a neighborhood and "seed" programs and activities that create an atmosphere of security, safety and well being for residents. The Barton Village neighborhood is the target area for the unit.
- ❑ School/Safety Patrol - This unit is headed by a sergeant who is responsible for overseeing Richmond County Board of Education school crossing guards. The sergeant also is responsible for inspecting all commercial taxicabs and limousines in Richmond County on a biannual basis.
- ❑ Housing - This unit consists of 13 deputies and 2 sergeants divided between two patrols. The primary responsibility of the unit is to patrol the housing complexes owned by the Augusta Housing Authority. A grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is used to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for the cost of this unit.

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The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) includes 65 personnel and is responsible for following up on all crimes reported to the Sheriff's Office. CID is divided into six sections: administrative, motor vehicle theft, narcotics, property crimes, technical crimes and violent crimes. According to crime statistics, there were 31,680 crimes reported to the Sheriff's Office in 2001.

The Jail Division is responsible for operating two correctional facilities: The Augusta-Richmond County Law Enforcement Center at 401 Walton Way, and the Augusta-Richmond County Detention Center at 1941 Phinizy Road.

- ❑ Law Enforcement Center - This six-story tower opened in the latter part of 1985. Originally designed as a 240-bed facility, an additional 100 beds were added in 1987 to alleviate overcrowding. In 1997, the lower level of the facility was renovated and an annex was constructed that includes a new Intake-Release section, jail administrative offices, a transportation section, and a 27-bed infirmary. One hundred thirty-eight employees, including 103 jailers, work at the Walton Way Jail.
- ❑ Detention Center - This \$16.2 million facility opened on November 17, 1997. The Detention Center has 552 inmate beds divided among four pods. Three of the pods house male inmates and the fourth one houses females. The facility is located on part of a 52-acre site that can accommodate additional pods as the need arises. Eight-four employees, including 54 jailers, are assigned to the Detention Center.

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office Training Center is a 500-acre facility located on Deans Bridge Road near the Richmond County landfill. A staff of 8 coordinates all training activities at the program. The center conducts or hosts training courses 50 weeks a year to Sheriff's Office deputies and to personnel from other law enforcement agencies. The center is equipped with a "live fire" tire house and an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course.

### **6.2.2 Fire Protection**

The Augusta-Richmond County Fire Department provides full-time professional fire protection to all parts of Augusta and within the city of Blythe. The service area covers approximately 214 square miles (excluding Hephzibah and Fort Gordon), and includes a mix of residential areas, high value districts, and woodlands. A high value district is an area of commercial, industrial and/or institutional land uses of unusually high property value. Examples of high value districts include downtown Augusta, the midtown medical complex, Augusta Mall and other shopping centers, and the Miracle Mile Industrial Park on Marvin Griffin Road. The service area includes a resident population of 188,141 (2000 Census).

The Fire Department has 312 employees and 34 pieces of firefighting equipment distributed among 19 fire stations. The department's headquarters is located at Station #3

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at 1099 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. Of the total employees, 290 are combat firefighters and the rest are administrative and support personnel. Administrative offices are located at #1 Tenth Street in downtown Augusta, but will relocate to a new building on Laney-Walker Blvd. by the end of 2003. Within the department, the Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for arson investigation, code enforcement, and fire safety education. Schools, places of assembly, and buildings in high value districts are a top priority for life safety code enforcement. Table C-1 lists the location, number of personnel and major equipment at each fire station.

| <b>Table C-1<br/>Fire Department Facilities and Equipment<br/>Augusta-Richmond County</b> |                         |                   |  |                  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
| <b>Station Number</b>   | <b>Location</b>         | <b>Year Built</b> | <b>Equipment</b>   | <b>Personnel</b> |
| 1   | 302 Watkins St.         | 1964              | 1500GPM Pumper<br>Water Rescue Vehicle   | 12               |
| 2   | 1435 Walton Way         | 1957              | 1500GPM Pumper   | 12               |
| 3   | 1099 Reynolds St.       | 1970              | 1500 GPM Pumper<br>105' Aerial Truck<br>Command Vehicle<br>High Angle Rescue Vehicle | 27               |
| 4   | 1866 Ellis St.          | 1974              | 1000 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| 5   | M.L.K. Blvd.            | 1996              | 1500 GPM Pumper<br>Air Supply Vehicle  | 12               |
| 6   | 2618 Richmond Hill Rd.  | 1954              | 1250 GPM Pumper<br>104' Aerial Truck<br>Command Vehicle                              | 27               |
| 7   | 2163 Central Ave.       | 1913              | 1500 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| 8   | 2830 Central Ave.       | 1949              | 1500 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| 9   | 3507 Walton Way Ext.    | 1974              | 1500 GPM Pumper<br>102' Aerial Truck<br>Command Vehicle                              | 27               |
| 10  | 2625 Washington Rd.     | 1955              | 1000 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| 11  | 2108 Old Savannah Rd.   | 1982              | 1250 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| 12  | 5098 Mike Padgett Hwy.  | 1978              | 1500 GPM Pumper<br>1500 GPM Tanker   | 12               |
| 13  | 2619 Lumpkin Rd.        | 1973              | 1250 GPM Pumper<br>1500 GPM Tanker   | 12               |
| 14  | 3507 Highway 88         | 1978              | 1250 GPM Pumper<br>1500 GPM Tanker   | 12               |
| 15  | 3624 Wrightsboro Rd     | Temp.             | 1250 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| 16  | 3446 Old Louisville Rd  |                   | 1250 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| 17  | 3705 Old Waynesboro Rd. | 1975              | 1250 GPM Pumper<br>Ladder Service Truck  | 18               |
| 18  | 4185 Windsor Spring Rd. |                   | 1500 GPM Pumper<br>Haz Mat Vehicles (2)<br>Command Vehicle                           | 15               |
| 19  | 635 Sand Bar Ferry Rd.  | 1971              | 1000 GPM Pumper  | 12               |
| Source: Augusta Fire Department, November 2002  |                         |                   |  |                  |

**Table C-2  
Fire Station Construction  
Augusta-Richmond County, 2002-2004**

| <b>Station Number</b> | <b>Current Location</b> | <b>New Location</b>       | <b>Cost</b>   | <b>Year Opened</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1                     | 302 Watkins St.         | # 1 Broad St.             | \$1.4 million | 2003               |
| 7                     | 2163 Central Ave.       | 2917 Willis Foreman Rd    | \$1.3 million | 2003               |
| 19                    | 635 Sand Bar Ferry Rd.  | 1600 Brown Rd.            | \$1.3 million | 2004               |
| 8                     | 2830 Central Ave.       | 2023 Highland Ave.        | \$1.3 million | 2004               |
| 12                    | 5098 Mike Padgett Hwy.  | 1151 Hephzibah-McBean Rd. | \$1.3 million | 2004               |
| 15                    | Wrightsboro Rd          | Flowing Wells Road        | \$1.4 million | 2004               |

Source: Augusta Fire Department, as updated December 2003

### **6.2.3 Emergency Medical Services**

The Augusta 9-1-1 Center is located at 911 Fourth Street in downtown Augusta. The center is fully staffed on each shift with properly trained and equipped Emergency Medical Dispatchers. Depending on the nature of the call, an ambulance and/or the Fire Department First Responder is dispatched to the location. Rural/Metro Ambulance Service has a three-year contract to provide emergency medical services in Augusta-Richmond County. Rural/Metro now uses seven ambulances at all times and eight during peak periods. Gold Cross Ambulance Service provides back-up service in the city.

### **6.2.4 Animal Control**

The Augusta-Richmond County Animal Control Department provides animal control services in Augusta. A licensed veterinarian (position currently vacant) heads the department and supervises other employees and the animal control facility on Mack Lane in south Augusta. The department operates a fleet of trucks that provide coverage throughout the city. The facility takes in an average of 10,000 animals each year. The

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animal control facility consists of a group of 30-year-old buildings and kennels in need of replacement.

The Animal Control Shelter's volunteer group, Augusta Animal Rescue Friends (AARF), offers the shelter's animals for adoption and operates a foster care program. The 12-member Richmond County Animal Control Board meets monthly to hear and decide cases involving the state's Dangerous Dog Law.

### **6.2.5 Assessment of Public Safety Needs**

The City of Augusta provides police protection and law enforcement through the Richmond County Sheriff's Office, fire protection through the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services under contract with Rural Metro Ambulance Service, and animal control through the Animal Control Department. The City is currently meeting the needs of its residents adequately in each of these areas, and is taking steps to meet the demands of the future.

In 1997, the Augusta-Richmond County Detention Center was built to relieve overcrowding at the Law Enforcement Center. Even with the addition of the Detention Center, correctional facilities in Augusta remain overcrowded on a regular basis. Factors contributing to the overcrowding include stiffer sentences, a backlog of court cases, and a backlog of prisoners awaiting transfer to state correctional facilities. The Sheriff's Office has brought this issue to the attention of the City Commission, as well as the fact that local detention facilities are understaffed. As previously mentioned, the Detention Facility is designed so that additional pods can be constructed on the site. During budget work sessions in the fall of 2002, the City Administrator presented the City Commission with a proposed capital improvement plan that includes the construction of two additional jail pods at the Phinizy Road facility at an estimated cost of \$7.9 million.

The city also recognizes the need for new fire stations. The advanced age of some existing fire stations, need for additional space, and shifts in population combine to make some new facilities necessary. In October 2002, the city broke ground on three new stations, each of which replaces an existing facility. Each station includes state-of-the-art design with architectural features that blend with the surrounding neighborhoods. Each station has a community meeting room for use by neighborhood residents. Three additional station relocations are planned for the year 2003. Collections from the 1-cent special purpose local option sales tax are financing the new fire stations.

A new animal control shelter is under construction. The design and specifications for the shelter were prepared in early 2002. The facility was redesigned after the initial bids came in over budget. The new shelter is expected to be ready for occupancy by November 2003.

### **6.3 Educational Facilities**

The Richmond County Board of Education and several private schools provide elementary and secondary education facilities in Augusta and Richmond County. Post-secondary



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education facilities include Augusta Technical College, Augusta State University, Paine College, and the Medical College of Georgia.

The Richmond County Board of Education consists of ten members elected by districts that coincide with the city commission district boundaries. Eight school board members are elected by single districts and the remaining two are elected by combined districts. The Board operates under a committee system established by the Board President. The Board appoints a Superintendent to administer the operations of the public school system. The Board employs approximately 4,300 people, and the main administrative offices are located at 2083 Heckle Street. By the end of 2003, all administrative offices will be centralized at renovated buildings located on Broad Street in downtown Augusta.

There are currently 55 schools in the Richmond County public school system. Of these 34 are elementary, 10 are middle, 8 are high schools, and 3 are magnet schools. Enrollment as of the fall 2002 was approximately 35,700 students. The magnet school concept is designed to encourage system-wide attendance at inner-city schools. Richmond County opened its first magnet school in 1981. Currently Richmond County has three magnet schools: John S. Davidson Fine Arts School (grades 6-12), A. R. Johnson High School - specializing in health, science, math and engineering, and C. T. Walker Elementary School.

Private schools include Curtis Baptist School (grades K-12), Episcopal Day School (K-8), Hillcrest Baptist School (K-8), Immaculate Conception School (K-8), St. Mary on the Hill School (K-8), Southgate Christian School (K-12), and Westminster Schools (Pre-K-12).

Between 1996 and 2002, the Richmond County public school system completed a total of 47 improvement projects. Originally financed with a \$115 million bond approved by taxpayers, the improvement program included the following:

- ❑ \$53 million to build six new schools, including Cross Creek High School, replacement of Sue Reynolds and Hephzibah Elementary Schools, and the consolidation of Levi White/Jenkins Elementary Schools, Craig/Houghton Elementary Schools, and Lake Forest/Forest Hills Elementary Schools
- ❑ \$56 million in expansions and renovations to 27 schools
- ❑ \$2 million in roof repairs
- ❑ \$600,000 to retrofit 5 schools for technology

In 1996 voters approved a 1-cent sales tax increase that enabled the School Board to pay off the bonds in five years instead of thirty. The School Board, Administrative Planning Committee, Community Oversight Committee, and a program manager worked together to complete the improvement projects. Among the factors that contributed to the need for the improvement projects included the following:

- ❑ The school system was growing at a rate of more than 400 students per year
- ❑ Overcrowding that resulted in the use of many portable classrooms
- ❑ Preventive maintenance was needed to protect the investment in many schools

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- ❑ Overcrowding caused overuse of common areas, such as cafeterias and libraries
- ❑ Old schools could not accommodate the computer technology provided by lottery funds
- ❑ Good education facilities and programs promote economic growth and protect property values

### **6.3.1 Assessment of Education Needs**

In the summer of 2001, the School Board, Administrative Planning Committee, and Community Oversight Committee completed an assessment of additional construction projects needed to bring facilities up to the expectations for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Continued overcrowding and the use of portables, the passage of HB 1187 mandating reduced class sizes, and the age of some schools were some of the major factors contributing to the need for more projects. In November 2001, voters approved a five-year extension of the 1-cent sales tax for schools that will fund the following projects:

- ❑ Construction of two (2) new elementary schools in south Augusta
- ❑ Construction of a replacement school for Hornsby Elementary School
- ❑ Construction of a new Vocational/Technical Magnet High School
- ❑ Construction of a replacement for A. R. Johnson Science Technology High School
- ❑ Construction of new stadiums at Westside, Glenn Hills, and Laney High Schools
- ❑ Expansion (mostly new classrooms) and renovations at 17 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 5 high schools

### **6.4 Recreation and Parks**

There are fifty-nine (59) public recreation facilities located in Augusta and Richmond County. Generally speaking, the facilities include community centers, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and specialized facilities. The community centers function as district parks, drawing users from a wide area, and offer both indoor and outdoor recreation programs. Six of the community centers - Henry Brigham, Johnson, McDuffie Woods, May Park, Bernie Ward, and Warren Road - have gymnasiums, and all have outdoor play equipment. Most neighborhood-level parks have an activity building, athletic field, and offer programs geared to children and pre-teens. Neighborhood parks generally draw users from within walking distance.

Playground sites vary widely in their size and facilities. Some have only playground equipment, but most have athletic fields, multipurpose courts, and/or picnic areas. A number of facilities focus on individual sports such as swimming, boxing, golf, fishing and boating, tennis, soccer, and skateboarding. One example is Eisenhower Park, which has four ball fields and a playground. Adjacent to Eisenhower Park is a bridge over the Augusta Canal. The bridge provides pedestrian and bicycle access to the 7-mile long Augusta Canal National Heritage Area.

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Julian Smith Park is a specialized facility that includes two recreation centers - Julian Smith Casino and the Barbecue Pit - an athletic field, playground and picnic areas, a disc golf course, Lake Olmstead, and a walking trail that connects to the Augusta Canal. Lake Olmstead provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation activities.

Though not a part of the City's park system, Pendleton King Park is a unique recreation facility that benefits the entire community. This 64-acre park is located on Troupe Street and is readily accessible from surrounding neighborhoods. The park is owned by the Trustees of the Pendleton King Estate, and operated and maintained by the City's Trees and Landscaping Department. Major facilities and attractions at the park include a large pavilion, playground equipment, picnic tables and shelters, tennis courts, an arboretum, and a disc golf course. Because of its size and location, Pendleton King attracts users from throughout the City, and hosts a number of special events each year.

The Augusta Recreation and Parks Department is the line agency responsible for recreation facilities and activities. The department's director supervises all programs with the aid of an assistant director and other administrative personnel. The department has six divisions: Athletic, Golf Course, Operations, Program, Support Services, and Planning/Development. In the past five years the department has entered into operating agreements with several community-based organizations. Under the agreements the organizations agree to operate selected recreation department facilities and provide volunteers to work at the facilities. Some of the organizations that have entered into agreements with the department include the Augusta Rugby Club, the Augusta Rowing Club, Sandridge Neighborhood Association, and 30901 Development Corporation. The agreements give the organizations an opportunity to participate in property maintenance and save the department thousands of dollars in personnel costs.

### **6.4.1 Park and Recreation Needs**

The Recreation and Parks Department is continually planning facility and program improvements. The department's basic strategy is to develop new facilities to meet the needs of growth areas and underserved neighborhoods, rehabilitate existing facilities to maintain their viability, and adapt programs and services to meet changing demands. In recent years, the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) has helped finance the construction and rehabilitation of many recreation facilities. Between 1998 and 2002, 51 facilities were rehabilitated and another 9 were constructed with the aid of SPLOST funds. New facilities include the Aquatics Center, Henry Brigham Swim Center, Blythe Community Center, the Skateboard Park, Soccer Complex, and Diamond Lakes Regional Park. Diamond Lakes is located on a 236-acre site on Windsor Spring Road in south Augusta. Phase I improvements at Diamond Lakes include a five-field youth baseball softball complex, a five-field adult softball complex, two towers featuring a first level concession and restroom facility, a second level viewing and picnic area, and third level scoring area, a one-mile walking track, three wooded picnic areas with tables and grills, and four fully-stocked public fishing ponds.

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The department is now planning the expenditure of additional SPLOST funds. A total of \$13.7 million in Phase IV SPLOST funds have been appropriated for recreation improvements. New facilities under construction include Brookfield West Park, Sand Hills Park, and McBean Park. A joint library community center is to be built at Diamond Lakes Park. A number of recreation improvement projects are planned under Phase IV of the SPLOST, including the following:

- ❑ Construct A. L. Williams Park (completed)
- ❑ Lake Olmstead Multi-Use Trail (completed)
- ❑ Old Government House - Improvements
- ❑ New Community Building at Soccer Park
- ❑ Boathouse Building Renovations
- ❑ Blythe Recreation Center Improvements
- ❑ Warren Road Community Center Improvements
- ❑ Jones Pool Renovations
- ❑ Savannah Place Park Gymnasium
- ❑ Building Addition at Doughty Park
- ❑ Building Addition at McDuffie Woods Center

### 6.5 Water and Wastewater Systems

#### 6.5.1 Water System

The Augusta Utilities Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water and sewerage systems in the city. In addition, the Department provides customer service functions including meter reading and customer billing, revenue collection, and inspection of new construction. The Department is headed by a director and has 215 full-time equivalent positions authorized in its FY 1999 - 2000 budget.

Augusta owns and operates a water system serving 58,246 residential and 7,424 commercial and industrial customers as of December 31, 2001. The system's surface water supply is the Savannah River, supplemented by groundwater wells located throughout the city. Water from the Savannah River is treated at the Highland Avenue Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Water from the wells is treated at one of three ground water treatment plants (GWTP). Water transmission and distribution facilities convey the water from the treatment plants throughout the 210 square mile water service area. Generally, the service area can be characterized as having complete water service coverage for potential customers who wish to connect to the system. Fort Gordon and the cities of Blythe and Hephzibah provide water service within their respective jurisdictions.

The Savannah River is the city's primary source of surface water. Water is also withdrawn from the Augusta Canal, which is fed by and located next to the river. Major facilities at the Raw Water Pumping Station, located on the Canal, include four raw water intakes on the canal (two primary and two secondary) and a diesel engine-driven standby raw water pump. The Raw Water Pumping Station has an aggregate pumping capacity of 88 million gallons daily (mgd).

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The raw water supply is pumped to the Highland Avenue Water Treatment Plant through a system of three parallel raw water lines: a 30-inch diameter cast iron, a 36-inch steel, and a 60-inch ductile iron line. A 42-inch diameter, pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe is currently inactive. The standby raw water supply facility is at the same general location as the primary facility but pumps water directly from the Savannah River to the Highland Avenue Water Treatment Plant through the same system of raw water supply pipelines.

The city is currently permitted to draw up to 60 mgd at the Raw Water Pumping Station. An additional 15-mgd in permitted pumping capacity, currently not used, will be dedicated to a new water treatment plant and intake. The new intake is under construction at a location on the river below downtown Augusta.

The city is also permitted to withdraw supplemental raw water from the Tuscaloosa Formation aquifer through 32 wells: 26 actively producing, 5 deactivated and 1 inactive. The city is currently permitted to use up to 18.4-mgd monthly average groundwater, and 17.4 mgd maximum annual average. Well fields are generally located near one of three Ground Water Treatment Plants (GWTPs). One of the three plants, GWTP #3, located on Old Waynesboro Road, became operational in 2001. The other two plants date from 1966 and 1979. The wells that have been deactivated are in the vicinity of GWTP #1 located off Peach Orchard Road. Augusta holds permits for water sources as noted below in Table C-3

| <b>Table C-3<br/>Water Withdrawal Permits<br/>Augusta-Richmond County</b>   | <b>Permitted Withdrawal<br/>(mgd)</b> |                             |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|   | <b>Monthly<br/>Average</b>            | <b>24 hour Max.<br/>Day</b> |
| <b>Surface Water Permits</b>  |                                       |                             |
| Primary Source: Savannah River/Augusta Canal EPD Permit No. 121-0191-06   | 60.0                                  | 60.0                        |
| North Location: Savannah River EPD Permit No. 121-0191-09 (being relocated to the new intake site)                            | 15.0                                  | 18.5                        |
| <b>Groundwater Permit</b>   | <b>Monthly<br/>Average</b>            | <b>Annual<br/>Average</b>   |
| 26 Active Wells - located at GWTP Nos. 1, 2, & 3 and three individual sites (Rural Chlorination Sys.) EPD permit No. 121-0007 | 18.4                                  | 17.4                        |

Augusta owns four water treatment plants and a rural chlorination system, as illustrated in Table C-4. Augusta has raw water storage capacity of approximately 379 acre-feet or 124 million gallons at two raw water storage reservoirs located adjacent to the Highland Avenue WTP. They provide pre-settling of suspended matter in the raw water as well as storage during times of low river or canal flows. Water flows by gravity from these reservoirs to the WTP.

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**Table C-4**  
**Water Treatment Plants and Chlorination System**  
**Augusta-Richmond County**

| <b>Plant</b>  | <b>Rated Capacity for Treatment of Raw Water</b> | <b>2001 Production of Treated Water (maximum day)</b> | <b>Date of Original Construction</b> | <b>Dates of Improvements</b> |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Highland Avenue WTP</b><br><br>Permitted to 60 mgd but improvements, are needed before plant can sustain that production level. Current sustainable capacity is 45.0 mgd | 60.0 mgd   | 40.50 mgd   | 1939                                 | 1949, 1954, 1987, 1994, 2000 |
| <b>Peach Orchard (GWTP No. 1)</b>   | 5.0 mgd  | 6.49 mgd  | 1966                                 | 1969, 1996                   |
| <b>Highway 56 Loop (GWTP No. 2)</b>   | 10.0 mgd   | 8.95 mgd  | 1979                                 | 1985, 1992, 1996             |
| <b>Old Waynesboro Rd. (GWTP No. 3)</b>  | 5.0 mgd  | 6.08 mgd  | 2001                                 | N/A                          |
| <b>Rural Chlorination System</b>  | 3.7 mgd  | 1.77 mgd  | 1972                                 | Each year since 1981         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>83.7 mgd</b>                                  | <b>63.97 mgd*</b>                                     |                                      |                              |
| <b>*Current operating limit = 78.4 mgd</b>  |  |   |                                      |                              |

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### 6.5.2 Finished Water Storage

The Highland Avenue finished water storage supplies the lower pressure zones directly by gravity while the remainder is pumped to the system's storage facilities located in various pressure zones. There are five finished water storage tanks (clear wells) at the Highland Avenue WTP with a total storage capacity of 15.45 MG. The treated water is then fed by gravity or pumped throughout the water distribution network.

### 6.5.3 Water Distribution System

The system's water distribution consists of approximately 1,010 miles of pipelines, ranging in size from 6 inches to 24 inches in diameter. Most of the pipelines are made of cast iron or ductile iron. Approximately 20% of these pipelines have been in service for 50 years or more, with the oldest pipelines installed approximately 140 years ago.

Finished surface water is distributed from the Highland Avenue WTP by gravity and pumping. Finished ground water is pumped from GWTP No. 1 into the Intermediate-South pressure and from GWTP No. 2 into the Pine Hill pressure gradient (417 ft. MSL). Distribution system pump stations situated at various locations are used to feed isolated high-pressure zones.

| <b>Table C-5<br/>Surface Water Storage Facilities<br/>Augusta-Richmond County</b> |                               |  |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>   | <b>Location<br/>Elevation</b> | <b>Pressure<br/>Systems<br/>Served</b> | <b>Capacity<br/>(Gallons)</b> |
| Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 1  | 433                           | N/A                                    | 1,250,000                     |
| Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 2  | 433                           | N/A                                    | 3,000,000                     |
| Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 3  | 433                           | N/A                                    | 5,000,000                     |
| Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 4  | 433                           | N/A                                    | 1,600,000                     |
| Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 5  | 433                           | N/A                                    | 4,600,000                     |
| <b>Total Clearwells</b>   |                               |  | <b>15,450,000</b>             |
| Berckmans Road  | 418                           | 420                                    | 500,00                        |
| Highland Ave WTP Tank   | 564                           | 564                                    | 500,000                       |
| Highpoint Tank  | 564                           | 564                                    | 1,000,000                     |
| Walton Way Extension  | 501                           | 500                                    | 750,000                       |
| Belair Road   | 630                           | 630                                    | 1,000,000                     |
| <b>Total Elevated Storage</b>   |                               |  | <b>3,750,000</b>              |

**Table C-6**  
**Ground Water System Storage Facilities**  
**Augusta-Richmond County**

| <b>Location</b>                             | <b>Location Elevation</b> | <b>Pressure Systems Served</b> | <b>Capacity (Gallons)</b> |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| GWTP No. 1 Clearwell                        | 162                       | 417                            | 500,000                   |
| GWTP No. 2 Clearwell                        | 128                       | 457                            | 1,000,000                 |
| GWTP No. 3 Clearwell                        | 240                       | 521                            | 2,000,000                 |
| Faircrest Avenue                            | 436                       | 597                            | 5,000,000                 |
| Faircrest Avenue                            | 417                       | 597                            | 500,000                   |
| Windsor Spring Road                         | 417                       | 417                            | 500,000                   |
| Richmond Hill Road                          | 417                       | 597                            | 500,000                   |
| Golden Camp Road                            | 417                       | 597                            | 250,000                   |
| Algernon                                    | 417                       | 417                            | 2,000,000                 |
| Morgan Road (placed in operation Aug. 2000) | 470                       | 597                            | 5,000,000                 |
| Cedar Ridge                                 | 417                       | 521                            | 1,000,000                 |
| Pine Hill                                   | 457                       | 521                            | 300,000                   |
| Rose Hill                                   | 412                       | 457                            | 2,000,000                 |
| Wallie Drive                                | 457                       | 457                            | 300,000                   |
| <b>Total Ground Storage</b>                 |                           |                                | <b>20,850,000</b>         |
| Pine Hill                                   | 521                       | 521                            | 150,000                   |
| Highway 56                                  | 457                       | 457                            | 500,000                   |
| Tobacco Road                                | 597                       | 597                            | 500,000                   |
| Fairington Drive                            | 597                       | 597                            | 500,000                   |
| Georgetown                                  | 597                       | 597                            | 500,000                   |
| Lumpkin Road                                | 597                       | 597                            | 250,000                   |
| Old Waynesboro Road                         | 521                       | 521                            | 500,000                   |
| Greenland Road                              | 597                       | 57                             | 500,000                   |
| <b>Total Elevated Storage</b>               |                           |                                | <b>3,150,000</b>          |

#### 6.5.4 Future Water Needs

Augusta's projection of future water production needs is based on the anticipated total population, excluding Fort Gordon. The geographical distribution of population is not a



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factor in the plant-level planning, but is important with respect to water transmission as part of the hydraulic distribution of water to customers.

With the current level of conservation, Augusta is expected to experience a small increase in per capita use over the next 20 years. The Technical Memorandum prepared to analyze the projected water demand estimates that the system will experience a 2 percent (0.09 percent per year) increase in per capital water usage by the year 2020.

Table C-7 presents Augusta's 2000 and projected per capita water usage in gallons per day. This usage rate is determined by dividing total water produced by population. This rate includes both customer-billed usage plus unaccounted for water. The per capita needs include residential and commercial usage. Industrial needs are presented separately because they are not expected to be directly linked to population growth. The projected annual average production in million gallons per day (mgd) and maximum day production are intended to be planning-level estimates of the city's future needs.

| <b>Table C-7<br/>Projected Water Consumption, 2001 to 2020<br/>Augusta-Richmond County</b>   |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | <b>2000</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2020</b> |
| Total Population   | 199,775     | 222,497     | 242,150     |
| Per Capita Water Usage, gpd (commercial and residential)   | 151         | 153         | 154         |
| Industrial Usage, mgd  | 10.3        | 10.5        | 10.7        |
| Annual Avg. Water Usage, mgd   | 41.3        | 44.5        | 48.0        |
| Max. Day Water Usage, mgd  | 61.1        | 71.2        | 77.0        |
| Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2002, Engineer's Report, June 13, 2002, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 3-12. |             |             |             |

While the city is taking steps to encourage water conservation, the development pattern and population distribution will also affect the amount of water consumption. As outlined in the Population Element the southern part of the city is projected to experience significant growth that will increase water demand even with conservation measures. In contrast, the northeastern part of the city is expected to have limited population growth over the next 20 years, resulting in a relatively small net increase in water demand.

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### 6.5.5 Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The city of Augusta's sanitary sewerage system serves approximately 44,048 residential and 5,591 commercial and industrial customers (as of December 31, 2001). The sewer system covers an area of approximately 106 square miles and serves an estimated population in excess of 150,000. For Gordon and the cities of Hephzibah and Blythe have separate sewer systems.

Augusta's wastewater collection and conveyance system consists of 8 drainage basins, 28 wastewater pumping stations, and approximately 640 miles of collection sewers. The sewers transport primarily sanitary sewage, but there is evidence of storm water infiltration in some of the basins. Approximately 80 percent of the sewer system is drained by gravity; the remainder requires pumping at least once. Sewer lines range from 8 inches to 72 inches in diameter. Most lines are made of vitrified clay, but other materials present include brick, concrete, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Approximately 20 percent of the sewer lines have been in service for 50 years or more.

Augusta owns and operates two wastewater treatment plants: the J. B. Messerly Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located on Doug Barnard Parkway, and the Spirit Creek WWTP on Bennock Mill Road. The Messerly WWTP is the much larger of the two plants in terms of facilities and treatment capacity (see Table C-8). The Messerly WWTP has two separate treatment facilities, the North Plant and the South Plant. The North Plant, constructed in 1976, includes equipment providing primary and secondary treatment with a capacity of 17.8 million gallons per day (mgd). The South Plant was constructed in 1984 with a design capacity of 28.4 mgd. Flow equalization basins were added in 1995.

In 1999, the city hired the firm Operations Management International (OMI) to operate and maintain the Messerly WWTP. OMI also operates the Spirit Creek WWTP. The firm was hired in the wake of an order by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for the city to correct many deficiencies in the wastewater treatment system. Of particular concern to the EPD was the city's failure to punish industrial customers that inadequately pre-treat their wastewater. Since taking over management of the Messerly plant, OMI has issued hundreds of notices to industries for wastewater infractions, and has levied stiff fines against the violators. According to news accounts, the firm has also achieved cost savings at the plant.

In 1997, the first stage of a wetlands system was constructed to provide additional ammonia-nitrogen removal from wastewater at the Messerly plant. The second and third stages of the wetlands system were completed in 2001 and 2002. The constructed wetlands, located on a 400-acre site next to the plant, filter sewerage before it is released into Butler Creek. Discharges from the treatment plant also flow to the river via Butler Creek.

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The Spirit Creek WWTP, constructed in 1988, serves the Spirit Creek basin in the southern part of the city. Wastewater is subjected to chlorination and aeration, and passes into the Savannah River. The plant has a rated treatment capacity of 2.23 mgd.

| <b>Table C-8<br/>Wastewater Treatment Plants<br/>Augusta-Richmond County</b>  |  |   |  |  |                             |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Plant</b>  | <b>Permitted<br/>Treatment<br/>Capacity<br/>(monthly<br/>Avg.)</b> | <b>2001 Treated<br/>Wastewater<br/>(Max. Day)</b> | <b>Date of<br/>Original<br/>Construction</b> | <b>Dates of<br/>Improvements</b>       | <b>Receiving<br/>Stream</b> |
| James B.<br>Messerly  | 46.1 mgd   | 36.8 mgd  | 1968   | 1976, 1984<br>1995, 1997<br>2001, 2002 | Butler Creek                |
| Spirit Creek  | 2.24 mgd   | 3.2 mgd   | 1988   | 1995                                   | Spirit Creek                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>48.34 mgd</b>   | <b>40.0 mgd</b>                                   |  |  |                             |
| Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2002, Engineer's Report, June 13, 2002, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 4-1. |  |   |  |  |                             |

### 6.5.6 Projected Wastewater Flows

A consulting firm, CH2MHill, prepared the Master Plan 2000 for Water and Wastewater Systems in Augusta. The Plan included projections of wastewater flows to the year 2020. Factors considered in projecting wastewater flows included population projections and the proportion of water accounts connected to the wastewater system. The population projections for the city indicate that much of the growth will occur in the Spirit and Little Spirit Creek drainage basins. The proportion of residences and businesses connected to the system is expected to increase as new residences and businesses are added and as some portion of existing residents connect to the system. Table C-9, reprinted from CH2MHill's Engineer's Report, summarized the sewered population, percentage change in sewered population and the projected wastewater flows through the two WWTP's.

**Table C-9**  
**Wastewater Flows by Plant, 2000 to 2020**  
**Augusta-Richmond County**

| Plant                     | 2000    | 2010     | 2020    |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| <b>Spirit Creek WWTP</b>  |         |          |         |
| Capacity: 3 mgd           |         |          |         |
| Sewered Population        | 10,950  | 24,924   | 35,577  |
| Percent Change            | 14.2%   | 127.6%   | 42.7%   |
| Average Annual Flow (mgd) | 3.4     | 7.2      | 10.0    |
| Max. Month Flow (mgd)     | 4.0     | 8.6      | 12.0    |
| <b>Messerly WWTP</b>      |         |          |         |
| Capacity: 46.1 mgd        |         |          |         |
| Sewered Population        | 139,732 | 156,5489 | 165,603 |
| Percent Change            | 2.8%    | 12.0%    | 5.8%    |
| Average Annual Flow (mgd) | 31.5    | 34.8     | 36.7    |
| Max. Month Flow (mgd)     | 37.8    | 41.8     | 44.1    |

Note: Flows will be impacted by changes in the level of Infiltration/Inflow levels in the WWTP service areas.

Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2002, Engineer's Report, June 13, 2002, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 4-4.

The wastewater flow projections reveal two major needs regarding the WWTPs. The first is that the Spirit Creek WWTP needs to be expanded in the near future to accommodate projected flows. The second is that the Messerly WWTP does have sufficient capacity to treat maximum month wastewater flows.

### **6.5.7 Water and Wastewater System Improvements**

The Master Plan 2000 includes a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the city's water and sewerage systems. Projects are to be financed by scheduled debt issues in 2000, 2002, 2005 and 2008. The projects include a mix of improvements to water treatment facilities, the water distribution system, the wastewater treatment plants, the wastewater conveyance system, and system-wide projects. Table C-10 summarized the source and use of estimated funds for the recommended CIP.

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**Table C-10**  
**10 Year Capital Improvement Plan – Cost Estimates**  
**Water & Wastewater Systems**  
**Augusta-Richmond County**

| <b>Recommended Improvements</b>   | <b>Cost Estimate<br/>2000 Bonds</b> | <b>Cost Estimate<br/>2002 Funds</b> | <b>Cost Estimate<br/>2005 Funds</b> | <b>Cost Estimate<br/>2008 Funds</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Water Treatment Facilities  | \$28,655,000                        | \$57,829,000                        | \$38,500,000                        | \$ 2,000,000                        |
| Water Distribution System   | 19,789,000                          | 14,739,000                          | 13,700,000                          | 1,500,000                           |
| Water Treatment Plants  | -                                   | 8,867,800                           | 33,100,000                          | 15,200,000                          |
| Wastewater Conveyance System  | 9,322,000                           | 41,219,200                          | 20,000,000                          | 4,200,000                           |
| System-Wide Projects  | 5,895,000                           | 7,345,000                           | 7,200,000                           | 2,100,000                           |
| <b>10-Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>   | <b>\$90,127,000</b>                 | <b>\$130,000,000</b>                | <b>\$112,500,000</b>                | <b>\$25,000,000</b>                 |
| <p>SOURCE: Engineer's Report, Augusta Utilities Department, Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2000, Appendix C and Engineer's Report, Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2002, Appendix D.</p> <p>NOTE: All estimated costs in 2002 dollars.</p> |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |

The City sold revenue bonds in the year 2000 to finance the first three years (2001-2003) of the CIP. The year 2000 CIP is summarized in Table C-11. For the water system, the CIP provides for significant improvements to the Highland Avenue WTP, improvements to the water distribution system, and pre-construction activities (i.e. siting, permitting and design) for a new water treatment plant. For the wastewater system, the three-year CIP provides for significant improvements to the Messerly WWTP and the wastewater conveyance system. Improvements to the wastewater conveyance system include interceptor line upgrades, expansion and extensions, infiltration/inflow reduction, and extending service to a number of unsewered pockets.

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**Table C-11**  
**Series 2000 Bond Projects: Summary of Estimated Cost**  
**Augusta-Richmond County**

| <b>Recommended Improvements</b> | <b>Estimated Cost</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water Treatment Facilities      | \$28,655,000          |
| Water Distribution System       | \$19,789,000          |
| Wastewater Treatment Plants     | \$ 9,322,800          |
| Wastewater Conveyance System    | \$26,466,000          |
| System-Wide Projects            | \$ 5,895,000          |
| <b>Total System</b>             | <b>\$ 90,127,000</b>  |

A second set of revenue bonds was sold in the summer of 2002. The 5-year CIP to be financed with the Series 2002 bonds is summarized in Table C-12. The CIP provides for upgrades and development of the water treatment and distribution system, wastewater conveyance, and wastewater treatment facilities. For the water system the CIP provides for significant improvements to the Highland Avenue WTP, improvements to the water distribution system, and construction of a new water treatment plant. The new water treatment plant is to be located on a site near the intersection of Tobacco Road and Mike Padgett Highway. For the wastewater system, the CIP provides for additional improvements to the Messerly WWTP and expansions and extensions of the wastewater conveyance system.

**Table C-12**  
**Series 2002 Bond Projects: Summary of Estimated Cost**  
**Augusta-Richmond County**

| <b>Recommended Improvements</b> | <b>Estimated Cost</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Water Treatment Facilities      | \$57,829,000          |
| Water Distribution System       | \$14,739,000          |
| Wastewater Treatment Plants     | \$ 8,867,800          |
| Wastewater Conveyance System    | \$41,219,000          |
| System-Wide Projects            | \$ 7,345,000          |
| <b>Total System</b>             | <b>\$130,000,000</b>  |

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### 6.6 Stormwater Management

Richmond County, including Augusta, is situated in the Middle Savannah River drainage basin. According to the *Augusta Watershed Assessment Report* (2003), there are nine drainage basins in the county. The northern portion of the county generally drains in an eastern and southeastern direction and includes Rock, Rae's, Oates, Rocky and Butler Creeks. Spirit Creek, including Little Spirit Creek, drains the central part of the county. McBean Creek drains the southeastern part, and Sandy Run Creek and Boggy Gut Creek, both tributaries to Brier Creek, drain the southwest portion. The ninth drainage basin, commonly referred to as the River's Edge, includes the downtown area along the Augusta canal, the area near Phinizy Swamp, and the area south of the swamp.

The municipal stormwater drainage system includes a variety of inlets, catch basins, drain pipes, open channels, culverts, detention and retention ponds and outlet structures. Generally speaking, in the urban service district stormwater is collected in catch basins and piped to a receiving channel or creek located in one of the major drainage basins. In the suburban service district, storm water from residential and commercial development is usually piped to a retention pond. The retention pond holds the storm water and releases it at a controlled rate either into the city's conveyance system or into a natural drainage area.

The city of Augusta has adopted a watershed approach to protect and improve water quality in local streams and the Savannah River. The city's stormwater regulations require all new commercial and residential development to maintain runoff release rates at pre-development levels. More stringent requirements are in place for development in the Rock, Rae's and Rocky Creek basins. These three basins have been heavily impacted by urban development.

The city holds a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit issued on April 14, 2000. In February 2003, the city submitted a Consolidated Stormwater Management Program to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The city's stormwater management program includes the following components:

- **Structural and Source Control Measures** – This program is designed to reduce pollutants in runoff from commercial and residential development. Major activities under this program include maintenance of structural controls, establishing post-construction controls over new development, cleaning public streets, flood water quality assessment, monitoring of runoff from the city's landfill, reducing pollutants used in environmental control, and administering and enforcing local development ordinances and programs. Examples of regulations and programs affecting stormwater drainage and water quality include the Stormwater Management Ordinance and Technical Manual, the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, the Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations, the Zoning Ordinance, and the Community Greenspace Program. The Greenspace and Natural

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Resources chapter provides more information on these and other ordinances affecting water drainage and quality.

- **Detect and Eliminate Illicit Discharges** – In recent years the city has completed a series of capital improvement projects to eliminate the last of the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The city now has eliminated all known CSOs by separating storm and sanitary sewer flows. There is an ongoing effort by the Augusta Utilities Department (AUD) to replace the aging sewer conveyance system, address infiltration / inflow problems and extend sanitary sewer service to pockets currently served by septic tanks. Other measures being undertaken include periodic evaluation of significant discharge facilities, field screening of highly visible potential pollutant sources, enforcing existing ordinances and enacting new ones as necessary, responding to public complaints about discharges, and establishing procedures to prevent, contain and respond to spills.
- **Industrial Monitoring Program** – This program involves monitoring and controlling pollutants in stormwater discharges from the city's system, the landfill, hazardous waste treatment and disposal and recovery facilities, industrial facilities subject to the Superfund Act, and industrial facilities that the city determines are contributing a substantial pollutant loading to the system.
- **Reduce Pollutants from Construction Sites** – This includes site planning, development of appropriate structural and nonstructural Best Management Practices (BMPs), inspection of construction sites, enforcement measures for noncompliance, and educational and training measures for construction site operators. Many of the methods and techniques needed to minimize the impact of construction on stormwater quality are addressed under existing ordinances and regulations.
- **Outreach and Public Education** – Metro Augusta Clean and Beautiful and the EcoSystems Institute coordinate public awareness and participation in activities to prevent stormwater pollution and improve water quality. Activities include stream cleanup, workshops, educational programs, classes, tours and the dissemination of information through websites. The city is also developing an outreach program to highlight water quality issues. The outreach program will include visits to schools; presentations to civic groups, neighborhood associations, and homebuilders; and dissemination of information through the Internet, newsletters, mailings and flyers.
- **Activities in Impacted Water Bodies** - According to analysis done as part of the Augusta Watershed Assessment (2003), water quality in Augusta's streams is good-to-excellent except for fecal coliform levels. Segments of three streams – Spirit Creek, Butler Creek, and Rocky Creek – are listed on the active 303 (d) list for fecal coliform. Butler Creek is also listed for Dissolved Oxygen and Selenium, and Rocky Creek is listed for toxicity. The city will take the following steps to address the problems in these three water bodies; delineate the limits of the drainage basin, conduct field assessment to identify possible sources of pollution, evaluate the impact of possible



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pollution sources, implement measures to address the pollution, and implement appropriate preventive measures.

Damaging floods in recent years highlighted the need for improvements to the storm water drainage system and changes to local development ordinances. All of the major drainage basins have been the focus of engineering studies in recent years. Projects resulting from the studies have included new retention facilities, channel improvements, upgrades to drainage pipes and installation of new bridges and culverts. The Short Term Work Program lists some of the drainage projects that have yet to be completed. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is completing the Regional Flood Control Feasibility Study. This study will include recommended structural and non-structural drainage improvement projects in the following basins: Rae's Creek, Rocky Creek, the Augusta Canal and Phinizy Swamp.

### **6.7 Solid Waste Management**

The Augusta-Richmond County Solid Waste Facility (the landfill), located at 4330 Deans Bridge Road, operates as an enterprise fund (i.e., it is funded by dollars generated from tipping fees) and receives municipal solid waste generated in the CSRA. Following consolidation of the city and county in 1996, solid waste collection service was gradually extended from the Urban Services District (the former city) to parts of the Suburban Services District. The goal was to provide area-wide solid waste collection service. As of 2002 approximately 85% of the suburban area is served by the city-provided collection services. The service will be extended to the entire suburban area in the next few years.

Collection services also include curbside recycling and bulky waste collection. The Solid Waste Facility also has a courtesy drop off area for residents to dispose of one to two bags of household waste at no charge. The waste collected at the courtesy drop off area is moved to the landfill active-area by the facility staff. To keep the recyclable waste out of the waste stream, the facility operations also include metal recycling, scrap tire recycling and composting operations.

Private haulers provide solid waste collection and disposal services to commercial, institutional and industrial customers. Private companies provide dumpsters, compactors and roll-off containers to their customers and dispose of collected solid waste at the landfill. The haulers have contracts with the city to provide these services and equipment.

The city will continue to cut down on the amount of solid waste generated and disposed of in the landfill, primarily by encouraging more recycling. The city provides curbside recycling as a part of its area-wide waste collection services and has established recycling drop off locations at fire stations.

The solid waste facility is located on part of a 1,187 acre site off Deans Bridge Road in South Richmond County, and is the only public municipal solid waste (MSW) Subtitle D landfill located in the Richmond County. Of the total acreage, 790 acres are usable for landfill. The landfill started operations in 1987. Initially a 100-acre part of the area designated for solid waste operation was used. This section of the landfill was not lined

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and was properly closed in 1994 to comply with the new solid waste federal and state regulations that required installation of liners and leachate collection and monitoring systems.

In 1994 a new lined section with a leachate collection system (Subtitle D) was constructed on an approximately 92-acre area with a footprint of 40.8 acres for solid waste disposal. This section is expected to reach its design capacity in early 2005 and will be properly closed. A 437-acre tract is proposed for development as a Subtitle D landfill expansion directly east of the currently permitted Landfill. Of the 437 acres in the expansion area, 310 acres are planned for waste disposal. This section is currently in the permitting phase. The permitting process is most likely to be completed by the end of 2003 and construction at the new section will start in late 2004. This section is expected to open in 2005 and will have a useful life of over 50 years.

The landfill is staffed by county employees and is operated as a division of the Public Works and Engineering Department. The landfill is currently receiving approximately 650 tons of solid waste per day. As of April 1, 2000, tipping fees at the landfill were: \$32.50 per ton for general, mixed or demolition waste; \$16.75 per ton for inert waste; \$20.00 per cubic yard for asbestos; and \$1.25 and \$5.00 each of car or small truck, and tractor tires, respectively. Metals and tires are stored separately and sold to recyclers. The landfill's year-2002 operating cost was approximately \$26 per ton.

The landfill is in compliance with Georgia Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, and all applicable federal and state rules and regulations. The facility is operating under the 1998 Solid Waste Management Plan that will be updated in 2003 for next five years.

### **6.8 Cultural Facilities**

#### **6.8.1 Libraries**

The East Central Georgia Regional Library serves the six counties of Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Lincoln, Richmond and Warren. The headquarters branch for the system is located at 902 Greene Street in downtown Augusta. There are four other branches in the city: Appleby Branch, 2260 Walton Way; Friedman Branch, 1447 Jackson Road; Maxwell Branch, 1927 Lumpkin Road, and Wallace Branch, 1237 Laney-Walker Boulevard. The Talking Book Center for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is located across the parking lot from the headquarters building. The region is also served by a bookmobile, which visits daycare centers and group housing facilities.

The library offers a wide range of services including videotapes, audio books, reference sources and computers with Internet access as well as print books. It has programming for all age levels from preschool through classes for senior citizens. The summer concert series in the Appleby Branch gardens is a longstanding tradition.

A SPLOST-funded branch library is planned for a shared facility with a recreation center at Diamond Lakes Park. Groundbreaking is planned for summer of 2003 with an opening

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date in early 2005 and is funded by the SPLOST. SPLOST money also has been allocated for a new headquarters library, to be located on a site in downtown Augusta. The exact site has not been determined and additional funding will be needed to complete the project.

### 6.8.2 Museums

The **Augusta Museum of History** is located at 560 Reynolds Street in a 45,000 square foot building that opened in 1995. A 10,000-square-foot addition, to be used as archive and storage space, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2003. Permanent exhibits include "Augusta's Story", the community's medical history, a restored 1917-steam locomotive and a reconstructed 1930s gas station. Visitors can clean cotton in a replica cotton gin and view a 56-foot long Petersburg boat. Children can learn history through interactive exhibits in the "Susan L. Still Children's Discovery Gallery". Documentaries are shown continuously and there is a museum shop.

The **Morris Museum of Art** is housed in the Augusta Riverfront Center located on the Riverwalk in downtown Augusta. The museum is home to a broad-based survey collection of Southern Art. A series of galleries include works from the antebellum period, Civil War Art, the Black Presence in Southern Art, Southern Impressionism, early 20<sup>th</sup> century painting and contemporary works. The museum also includes Southern Landscape paintings and a gallery for changing exhibitions. The museum's Center for the Study of Southern Art is a reference and research library on more than 1,000 artists who have worked in the South. The museum store offers exhibition catalogues, art books, handcrafted jewelry and unique gift items. William S. Morris, III, chairman and CEO of Morris Communications Corporation, established the museum in memory of his parents.

The **Lucy Craft Laney House and Museum of Black History** is located at 1116 Phillips Street in the Laney-Walker Historic District. Restored in the late 1980s by Delta House, Inc., the house includes a conference center, computer center and period garden. Programs include art and history exhibits, lectures and tours, Youth Leadership Academy, and senior citizens activities.

The **Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art** is located at 506 Telfair Street in the historic "Ware's Folly" building. The Gertrude Herbert serves as the CSRA's only independent non-profit art school and gallery. The Institute offers visual arts education opportunities for students of all ages, provides outreach instruction to elementary school students and senior citizens, and hosts at least six major exhibits of contemporary art each year.

Augusta is also home to house museums reflecting the diverse history and culture of the community. Table C-13 lists the major house museums in the city.

| <b>Table C-13</b><br><b>Augusta House Museums</b>                                   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Name &amp; Location</b>  | <b>Description</b>  |
| Meadow Garden (c.1795)<br>1320 Independence Drive                                   | Built for George Walton, the youngest original signer of the Declaration of Independence and twice Georgia Governor. It is the oldest documented house in Augusta.  |
| Ezekiel Harris House (c.1797)<br>1822 Broad Street                                  | Built by tobacco merchant Ezekiel Harris, this Federal-era style house is a reminder of Augusta's importance as a colonial-era trading center.  |
| Boyhood Home of Woodrow Wilson (c.1850)<br>419 Seventh Street                       | The future president lived here from 1860-1870 during the years his father served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The house was recently restored by Historic Augusta, Inc.   |
| Lucy Craft Laney House and Museum of Black History (c.1911)<br>1116 Phillips Street | Lucy Laney was born into slavery yet went on to become one of the most outstanding educators in post-Civil War Georgia. She started Augusta's first black kindergarten and nurses' training program. Restored in the late 1980s by Delta House, Inc., the house includes a conference center, computer center and period garden. Programs include art and history exhibits, lectures and tours, Youth Leadership Academy, and senior citizens activities. |

### 6.8.3 Augusta Welcome Center

For the past 12 years the city's Visitor Welcome Center has been located in the historic Cotton Exchange building at the corner of Eighth and Reynolds Street near Riverwalk Augusta. The center, operated by the Augusta Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), has information on area attractions and events. Visitors can also set up tours of historic Augusta at the center. The Cotton Exchange building also contains artifacts from the days when the c.1886 structure housed the local cotton exchange. The building was the center of activity for Augusta cotton brokers, especially from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century.

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In January 2004 the Welcome Center will move to the first floor of the Augusta Museum of History. Georgia Bank and Trust will occupy the space in the Cotton Exchange building vacated by the Welcome Center.

### **6.8.4 Fort Discovery**

The National Science Center's Fort Discovery is an interactive math and science museum located at #1 Seventh Street adjacent to Riverwalk. The two floors of Fort Discovery cover 128,000 square feet and house more than 280 interactive exhibits. Other facilities include science teacher learning labs, a theatre, retail store, meeting space and a restaurant. Interactive exhibits focus on three technologies: electronics, computer arts and communications. The National Science Center (NSC) represents a partnership between a non-profit organization (National Science Center, Inc.) and the U. S. Army. The primary mission of the NSC is to improve technical literacy and to encourage an interest in math and science careers.

## **6.9 Civic Center, Auditoriums and Performing Arts Center**

Augusta has a civic center, auditoriums and performing arts facilities used to host a wide variety of events and performances. The major facilities are listed below.

### **6.9.1 Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center**

The Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center, which opened in 1979, is located at 601 Seventh Street in downtown Augusta. The Civic Center Complex features an 8,500-seat arena, 2,690-seat theater (i.e. Bell Auditorium) and 14,500 square foot exhibit hall that opens into a 23,000 square foot arena floor. The Center has eight permanent concession stands and offers barrier-free seating. The Center annually hosts the Augusta Futurity, an eight-day event, the National Barrel Horse Championships, and springtime and Christmas Made in the South. The Civic Center is also home to the Augusta Lynx of the East Coast Hockey League. The Center was home to the Augusta Stallions and arena football team for three seasons between 2000 and 2002.

### **6.9.2 Bell Auditorium**

Part of the Civic Center Complex, the 2,690-seat theater is Augusta's principal arena for Broadway productions, musical acts, and local school performances. The Bell opened in 1938 and underwent extensive renovations in the late 1980s. The Bell is located at 712 Telfair Street in downtown Augusta.

### **6.9.3 Imperial Theatre**

The Imperial Theatre is located at 745 Broad Street in downtown Augusta. The theater opened as "The Wells" in February 1918, and hosted vaudeville acts and such stars as Charlie Chaplin. The theater was renamed the Imperial after being purchased by Lynch Enterprises in late 1918. The Imperial also served Augusta as a motion picture theater for

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many years. The theater, which currently has 903 seats, was restored in 1985 and began its second life as a performing arts center. Today it hosts a variety of performances, including productions of the Augusta Ballet and the Augusta Opera.

### **6.9.4 Sacred Heart Cultural Center**

The Sacred Heart Cultural Center is located at 1301 Greene Street in downtown Augusta. This late Victorian era edifice (c.1898) served as a Catholic Church from 1900 to 1971. The church was restored in the mid-1980s under the auspices of a local partnership. It reopened as the Cultural Center and now serves the community both as a home for non-profit organizations and as a unique venue for cultural and social events.

### **6.9.5 Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre**

The Grover C. Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre is located at 2500 Walton Way on the campus of Augusta State University. The theatre is a 750-seat facility used for a wide variety of musical events and plays. The facility is available to both on-campus and off-campus users.

## **6.10 Other Attractions**

### **6.10.1 Riverwalk Augusta**

Riverwalk Augusta is a riverside park conceived in 1982 as a part of a revitalization plan for downtown Augusta. Developed in phases between 1986 and 1992, this award-winning facility includes a brick-paved esplanade atop the river levee, a shaded walkway on the river side of the bulkhead, a playground and picnic area, the Jessye Norman Amphitheater, three landscaped bulkheads, and breaches in the levee at Eighth and Tenth Streets. A full-service marine was added in 1994. The park hosts a variety of special events each year and is close to other major attractions.

### **6.10.2 Augusta Golf and Gardens**

Augusta Golf and Gardens, future home of the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame, currently consists of eight acres of display gardens, including a butterfly garden, rose garden and pergola garden. The gardens are also home to bronze sculptures of golf legends such as Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Raymond Floyd, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Byron Nelson. The attraction will eventually encompass 17 acres along the Savannah River levee in downtown Augusta, and will include a 55,000 square-foot facility housing the Hall of Fame rotunda interactive exhibits, a 150-seat theater, a garden and a gift shop.

### **6.10.3 Springfield Village Park**

Located on two acres at the intersection of Twelfth and Reynolds Streets, this park pays tribute to Springfield Baptist Church, the oldest independent African-American congregation in the United States with an unbroken record of existence. The park includes

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walkways, floral landscaping fountains, and the 45-foot tall sculpture "The Tower of Aspirations". Planned improvements include artifact and living history museums. Springfield Baptist Church is located across the street from the park.

### **6.10.4 Augusta Common**

The Augusta Common is a 2½-acre park located in the 800 block of Broad Street in downtown Augusta. The park opened in October 2002 and is designed to connect Broad Street to the revitalized riverfront area. Park amenities include paved walkways, park benches, trees, raised planting beds, lighting fixtures, historical markers, and a statue of the city's founder, James Oglethorpe. Since opening, the Common has hosted a variety of festivals, music shows and special events.

### **6.10.5 Lake Olmstead Stadium**

Lake Olmstead Stadium, located on Milledge Road, is the home of the Class "A" Augusta Greenjackets baseball team. The Greenjackets play in the South Atlantic League and have an affiliation agreement with the Boston Red Sox. Lake Olmstead Stadium was built during the fall and winter of 1994-95, replacing Heaton Stadium. The Stadium seats approximately 4,400 and has a large picnic area down the left field line and a grill and bar area down the right field line. In addition to being the home of the Greenjackets, the stadium hosts concerts and special events throughout the year.

### **6.10.6 Phinizy Swamp Nature Park**

Located on 1,100 acres near Augusta Regional Airport, Phinizy Swamp Nature Park offers visitors an opportunity to see a variety of wildlife and vegetation in a natural setting. Established in 1999, the park offers education and research opportunities for students and teachers, and gives residents and visitors a chance to interact with nature in many ways. The park enjoys growing support from a variety of volunteers including individuals, families, non-profit organizations, corporations, area school systems, and government. Facilities at the park include seven trails, two observation decks, and a wooden footbridge. An education facility is under construction, and upcoming projects include the re-design of a parking area, construction of a new research facility, visitor's center and restrooms, and completion of the Floodplain Boardwalk extension project. The park is operated by the non-profit Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy.

### **6.10.7 Augusta Canal National Heritage Area**

The Augusta Canal National Heritage Area (i.e. The Augusta Canal) is among the nation's best examples of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial canal system. Constructed in 1845, and enlarged in 1876, the canal continues to provide power to historic mills alongside its banks, supplies water to the city, and forms a boat channel stretching approximately 8 miles from the Headgates in Columbia County to downtown Augusta. A number of historic structures associated with the canal still stand: the locks and dam at the headwaters, the lock keepers cottage, a dance pavilion and barbecue shed, Sibley Mill, King Mill, the Confederate Powder Works Chimney, Enterprise Mill (recently renovated into loft apartments and

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commercial space), and the Butt Memorial Bridge. Several historic neighborhoods adjoin the canal. The canal and its towpath tie these resources together, providing a ready-made walking (or canoeing) venue for users.

The canal is managed by the Augusta Canal Authority and is being revitalized in accordance with a master plan that includes a combination of preservation, conservation, education and interpretation, recreation and economic development activities. Among the projects either underway or in the design phase are the Bikeway/Multi-Use Trail Improvements, restoration of historic structures at the Headgates, Restoration of the Locks and Headgates Building, and Petersburg Boat (Tour Boat) construction. The Augusta Canal Interpretive Center, located in the Enterprise Mill, opened to the public in April 2003.

### **6.11 Hospitals and Related Health Care Facilities**

Augusta has a long history of service in the field of medicine. As a result, medical care, research and education facilities are vital to community life and the area economy. There are several major medical facilities in Augusta employing thousands of people. These facilities include acute care hospitals, psychiatric facilities, and extended care centers. Several of these facilities are located in a medical complex near downtown, and others are on individual sites elsewhere in the City. In addition to the facility-based employment, there are 1,111 physicians in private practice and many other residents employed in nursing homes, chiropractic clinics, dental offices, medical and dental laboratories, and other health services.

#### **6.11.1 University Hospital**

A 612-bed acute care facility located at the intersection of Walton Way and D'Antignac Street. University Hospital is part of the University Health Care System that employs approximately 3,000 people. Hospital services and facilities are numerous and include the W. G. Watson, M.D. Women's Center, the Georgia Heart Institute, University's Cancer Center, and the University Breast Health Center. University Home Health Services provides care to more than 3,000 patients in Georgia and South Carolina. University also operates two nursing facilities, Kentwood and Westwood. Besides the hospital, other facilities on the main campus include four professional office buildings, outpatient treatment facilities, three parking decks, and surface parking lots. Satellite medical centers are located on Peach Orchard Road in south Augusta and on Belair Road in Evans (Columbia County).

#### **6.11.2 Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

This two-division medical center, operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, provides tertiary care in medicine, surgery, neurology, psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine, and spinal cord injury. With emphasis on providing the most appropriate care, out outpatient visits exceed 244,000 annually. In addition to health care, the Augusta VA is an active teaching and research facility that employs approximately 1,900 people.



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The Downtown Division is a 155-bed acute care facility located at the intersection of Fifteenth Street and Walton Way in Augusta. This division provides primary care, surgical, neurosciences and spinal cord injury treatment for veterans. A Women Veterans Clinic, Agent Orange/Gulf War Examinations, Former POW and other registry services are offered at this division.

The Uptown Division, located at the intersection of Wrightsboro Road and Freedom Way, has 165 beds. In addition to psychiatry and intermediate medicine beds, this division houses a 15-bed Blind Rehabilitation Center, a 60-bed Restorative Nursing Home Care Center and a 60-bed Domiciliary. Specialty programs include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, hospice and residential care.

### **6.11.3 St. Joseph Hospital**

A 236-bed acute care facility located at the intersection of Winter Street and Wrightsboro Road in Augusta. The hospital offers a wide range of medical and surgical services including the only hospital-based, inpatient hospice unit in the state of Georgia. St. Joseph is a member of the Carondelet Health System and employs about 900 people.

### **6.11.4 Walton Rehabilitation Hospital**

A 58-bed not-for-profit hospital located at the intersection of Thirteenth Street and Independence Drive in downtown Augusta. The hospital offers adult and pediatric inpatient and outpatient programs for persons recovering from stroke, head injuries, chronic pain and other disabling illnesses and injuries. Walton's continuum of care includes Walton Community Services offering residential and assisted living options to individuals with disabilities. Walton Options for Independent Living offers accessible housing, employment, assistive technology, alternative formats and advocacy, and Walton Foundation for Independence, which supports all of the above organizations. The Walton organizations employ approximately 300 people.

### **6.11.5 Doctors Hospital**

Doctors Hospital is a 354-bed full-service facility and home to the nationally acclaimed Joseph M. Still Burn Center. The hospital is located on J. Dewey Gray Circle in west Augusta. Doctors Hospital was recently named one of the 100 Top Hospitals <sup>TM</sup>, a national award for superior performance by hospitals with regard to high quality of care, efficient delivery of care and value to its patients and community. The hospital employs approximately 1,000 full-time and part-time staff.

### **6.11.6 Georgia Regional Hospital at Augusta (GRHA)**

A 269-bed, licensed, state-supported facility located at 3405 Mike Padgett Highway in south Augusta. The facility serves consumers with disabilities including mental illnesses, substance abuse and mental retardation. The hospital is designated as an Emergency

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Receiving Facility for mental illness and drug abuse for Regions 3 and 12 which encompass a 23 county area in East Central Georgia. The facility is operated by the Georgia Department of Human Resources and employs approximately 500 people.

### **6.11.7 Gracewood State School and Hospital**

A 500-bed, state-supported facility located off Tobacco Road in south Augusta. Gracewood provides residential and other services to mentally retarded clients from a 47-county service area. The hospital is operated by the Georgia Department of Human Resources and employs about 1,200 people.

### **6.11.8 Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center**

A 426-bed hospital located at Fort Gordon in south Augusta. The facility offers medical care to active duty military personnel, military retirees and family members, and is the regional tertiary-care referral center for all the armed forces in seven southeastern states, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean. Eisenhower is operated by the U. S. Army and employs approximately 2,000 people.

### **6.11.9 Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and Hospitals**

MCG is the health sciences school for the University System of Georgia. Founded in 1829 at a location in downtown Augusta, MCG currently occupies a campus in the area roughly bounded by the triangle formed by Harper Street, Fifteenth Street and R. A. Dent Blvd. A number of other MCG facilities are located nearby. In addition to teaching, research, clinics and housing facilities, the MCG campus includes the 544-bed Eugene Talmadge Memorial Hospital and Sydenstricker Wing, the 340,000 square-foot Ambulatory Care Center, and the five-story, 149-bed Children's Medical Center. MCG also features the Georgia Radiation Therapy Center, a regional trauma center, and a regional perinatal center. Approximately 6,300 people are employed throughout the MCG complex.